

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CPR-02 SS-20 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 NSC-07 SPC-03 IO-14 SY-03 DRC-01

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----- 032534

R 310645Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1424

INFO AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USUN 0058

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EO 11652: N/A (DECON APGPLLL 1, 1975)

TAGS: PFOR, TC, US

SUBJ: OPENING OF UAE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON

REF: A. STATE 35871 NOTAL: B. ABU DHABI A-12 OF MARCH 14 1974
NOTAL

SUMMARY: UAE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES-DESIGNATE HAMAD AL-MIDFA',
PLANS ARRIVE IN WASH WEEK APRIL 1 TO PRESENT LETTERS OF
CREDENCE AND TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR OPENING UAE EMB.
PROBABLE LOCATION OF CHANCERY WILL BE IN DOWNTOWN COMM
OFFICE BUILDING, AND TOWNHOUSE PREVIOUSLY PURCHASED BY UAE WILL
BE UTILIZED AS CHIEF OF MISSION'S RESIDENCE. EMB STAFF WILL
COMPRISE CHARGE, CONSULAR OFF AND AT LATER DATE PROBABLY
ANOTHER DIPL OFF. SOME THOUGHT BEING GIVEN TO ASSIGNMENT OF
SENIOR POLITICAL COUNSELOR TO ASSIST MIDFA' IN WHAT UAE
CONSIDERS AS MOST IMPORTANT AND DIFFICULT DIPL POST.
UAE AMB TO UK TAJIR HAS RAISED QUESTION OF APPROPRIATENESS
OF ESTABLISHING EMB AT CHARGE LEVEL IN TERMS POSSIBLE USG
SENSITIVITIES. EMB HAS ASSURED HIM THAT RECOGNIZING UAE'S
LACK OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL, USG HAS NOT PRESSURED
UAE TO OPEN POST IN WASH UNTIL IT READY DO SO. THEREFORE, WE WELCOME
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ASSIGNMENT MIDFA', WHOM WE PREPARED ASSIST IN HIS MISSION

IN EVERY APPROPRIATE WAY. TAJIR INFORMED EMB THAT HE EXPECTS UAE TO SEND RESIDENT AMBASSADOR TO WASH WITHIN SEVERAL MONTHS. FROM EMB'S OBSERVATIONS, WE BELIEVE MIDFA' IS EXCELLENT CHOICE AS CHARGE. BOTH HE AND HIS KUWAITI WIFE APPEAR TO BE INTELLIGENT, FRIENDLY AND WELL MOTIVATED. THEY SHOULD MAKE FINE REPRESENTATIONAL TEAM FOR UAE IN WASH.

1. UAE CHARGE D'AFFAIRES DESIGNATE, HAMAD AL-MIDFA', INFORMED EMB THAT HE PLANS ARRIVE IN WASH WEEK OF APRIL 1 TO BEGIN PREPARATIONS FOR OPENING OF UAE EMB. MIDFA' HAS BEEN ON LEAVE AND CONSULTATION IN UAE FOR ONE MONTH. MFA INSTRUCTED MIDFA' PROCEED DIRECTLY TO WASH TO ASSUME HIS DUTIES AND PRESENT LETTER OF CREDENCE. HE WILL RETURN TO NY TO COMPLETE PACKING, WINDING UP HIS UN AFFAIRS, ETC. AS TIME PERMITS. UNTIL RESIDENCE FURNISHED, HE PLANS TO RESIDE IN A HOTEL.

2. MIDFA' STATED THAT FIRST ORDER OF BUSINESS WILL BE RENTAL OF OFFICE SPACE FOR THE EMB. UNDERSTAND UAE HAS ENGAGED LAWYER/REAL ESTATE AGENT TO ASSIST IN FINDING SUITABLE RENTAL PROPERTY IN DOWNTOWN OFFICE BUILDING; CONN. AVE AREA SEEMS TO BE PREFERRED LOCATION. MIDFA' SAID THAT TOWNHOUSE UAE PURCHASED IN 1972 NEAR MASS AVE IS INTENDED FOR USE STRICTLY AS RESIDENCE, ALTHOUGH HE MAY BE FORCED UTILIZE FIRST FLOOR TEMPORARILY AS CHANCERY, SHOULD THERE BE DELAY IN LOCATING OR MOVING INTO COMML OFFICE SPACE.

3. INITIALLY UAE EMB STAFF WILL COMPRISE CHARGE, CONSULAR OFFICER (YET TO BE SELECTED BU LIKELY ONE OF JUNIOR DIPLOMATS NOW WORKING IN MFA) AND ASSIGNMENT, PROBABLY AT EARLY DATE, OF ANOTHER DIPL OFFICER. SECRETARIES, TRANSLATOR, DRIVERS, AND OTHER SUPPORTING STAFF PERSONNEL WILL BE HIRED IN US.

4. A. DR. ADNAN PACHACHI DISCUSSED WITH CHARGE RECENTLY IDEA OF ASSIGNING SENIOR DIPL ADVISOR TO NEW UAE EMB TO COUNSEL AND ASSIST RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED MIDFA' AND HIS SMALL STAFF IN VARIED AND COMPLEX PROBLEMS THEY WILL FACE IN SOPHISTICATED WORLD CAPITAL LIKE WASH. IN ABSENCE OF RESIDENT AMB, PACHACHI AND OTHERS BELIEVE UAE MUST PROVIDE ITS YOUNG DIPLOMATS WITH BEST LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AVAILABLE
SUBSTANTIVE BACK-UP SUPPORT TO AVOID CRITICISM LEVELLED AGAINST OTHER ARAB EMBASSIES OF PROFESSIONAL INCOMPETENCE. B. PACHACHI HAS IN MIND

PROPOSING TO FORMIN SUWAIDI ASSIGNMENT TO WASH OF FORMER SENIOR IRAQI CAREER DIPLOMAT, NATHER OMARI, WHO NOW SERVING IN MFA AS ADVISOR ON UN AFFAIRS AND ACTING DIRECTOR OF POLITICAL DEPT., A PROTEGE AND CONTEMPORARY OF PACHACHI, OMARI HAS SERVED AS IRAQI

AMB TO UK AND LEBANON, IN ADDITION TO POSTINGS IN WASH AND NY. HE IS THOROUGHLY FAMILIAR WITH US SCENE, IS SEASONED DIPLOMAT, UNUSUALLY BALANCED IN VIEW, AND MOST IMPORTANT IS VERY FRIENDLY AND COOPERATIVE TO US AND WEST IN GENERAL. OMARI ALSO ENJOYS ANOTHER DESIRABLE QUALITY FOR JOB AS SENIOR ADVISOR -- AS RETIRED IRAQI DIPLOMAT IN MID OR LATE FIFTIES, HS IS DISINTERESTED IN PERSONAL ADVANCEMENT IN UAEG; THUS, BY NATURE HE WOULD BE CONTENT TO REMAIN IN BACKGROUND STRICTLY AS COUNSELOR TO MIDFA'. EMB HAS ESTABLISHED SOLID RELATIONSHIP WITH OMARI AND BELIEVES HE WOULD BE IDEAL CHOICE FOR COUNSELOR POSITION.
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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CPR-02 SS-20 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10

NSAE-00 RSC-01 PRS-01 NSC-07 SPC-03 IO-14 SY-03 DRC-01

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5A. IN SEPARATE CONVERSATION CHARGE HAD LAST WEEK WITH UAE AMB MAHDI TAJIR ABOUT UAE DIPL REPRESENTATION IN WASH, TAJIR EXPRESSED LINGERING DOUBT ABOUT WISDOM OF OPENING EMB AT CHARGE LEVEL. WASH. HE SAID, WAS SUCH IMPORTANT INTL POLITICAL CENTER AND BECOMING INCREASINGLY SO EACH DAY FOR UAE, THAT HE PREFERS RESIDENT AMB BE ASSIGNED AT ONCE, BUT UNRESOLVED PROBLEM WAS LACK OF A SUITABLE CANDIDATE. REMINDED TAJIR THAT IN OUR DISCUSSION SEVERAL MONTHS AGO, IT WAS HE WHO HAD AGREED OPENING AT CHARGE LEVEL WAS PRACTICAL SOLUTION TO UAEG'S MANPOWER PROBLEM ON ONE HAND, AND ABSENCE OF ANY DIPL REPRESENTATION IN US ON THE OTHER. TAJIR ACKNOWLEDGED HIS ACQUIESCENCE AT THAT TIME, BUT SAID

HE AND OTHERS IN UAEG NOW HAVE SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT DECISION, MAINLY BECAUSE THEY FEEL USG MAY HAVE CONCLUDED UAEG PURPOSELY DOWNGRADING ITS RELATIONS WITH US BY SENDING JUNIOR DIPLOMAT TO WASH. EMPHASIZED TO TAJIR THAT USG HAS NEVER PRESSURED UAE TO OPEN EMB IN WASH. WE ARE MOST CONSCIOUS AND UNDERSTANDING OF UAE'S MANPOWER DEFICIENCIES. THEREFORE, OUR ATTITUDE HAS BEEN UAE SHOULD ESTABLISH RESIDENT DIPL MISSION WHEN IT FELT NEED EXISTED FOR ONE, AND MFA WAS IN POSITION TO SUSTAIN POST ADMINISTRATIVELY. SPEAKING FOR AMB STOLTZFUS, AND DEPT, COULD ASSURE HIM USG WELCOMES ASSIGNMENT OF MR. MIDFA' AS CHARGE, AND WE WILL BE DOING EVERYTHING POSSIBLE TO FACILITATE HIS MISSION. FROM OUR OWN EXPERIENCE, OPENING AT CHARGE LEVEL LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFERS CERTAIN ADVANTAGES AS OFFICER IN CHARGE WILL NECESSARILY BE REQUIRED TO SPEND SUBSTANTIAL AMOUNT OF HIS TIME FIRST YEAR GETTING POST

ORGANIZED. GIVEN PROFESSIONAL AND SOCIAL DEMANDS OF WASH, IT SOMEWHAT EASIER FOR MORE JUNIOR OFFICER TO CONCENTRATE ON THESE TASKS, RATHER THAN AMB, WHO LESS LIKELY TO BE SIMILARLY MOTIVATED.

5B. TAJIR SEEMED PLEASED THAT USG NOT DISAPPOINTED IN ANY WAY BY MIDFA'S ASSIGNMENT. TAJIR WENT ON TO SAY THAT HE DID NOT EXPECT CHARGE REPRESENTATION TO LAST MORE THAN SEVERAL MONTHS, AS THERE MOUNTING PRESSURE WITHIN UAEG TO ASSIGN AMB TO WASH. HE MENTIONED HIS DEPUTY IN LONDON, AHMAD UBAIDLY, A BAHRAINI BY BIRTH, AS POSSIBLE CANDIDATE. WHEN I JOKINGLY SUGGESTED THAT SINCE HE WILL SOON HAVE EXHAUSTED ALL THE MAJOR DIPL AND COMML POSSIBILITIES FOR HIMSELF IN THE LONDON AND PARIS JOBS, AND THEREFORE, SHOULD REQUEST TRANSFER TO WASH, TAJIR SAID THIS IDEA ACTUALLY HAS BEEN BROACHED; HE TURNED IT DOWN AS HE HAS DEFINITELY DECIDED

LEAVE PUBLIC LIFE BY END OF 1974. (COMMENT: TAJIR HAS STATED FREQUENTLY OF LATE THAT HE SERVING UAEG ONLY OUT OF PERSONAL DEVOTION TO FM SUWAIDI, HOWEVER, MOST OBSERVERS DOUBT HE YET READY RELINQUISH LUCRATIVE DIPL POSTS IN EUROPE).

6. EMB STAFF HAD CHANCE MEET MIDFA' AND HIS VERY CHARMING WIFE, BADIYA DURING CALL AT OFFICE AND AT TWO SOCIAL FUNCTIONS. HE STRIKES US AS WELL ABOVE AVERAGE FOR YOUNG GULF STATE DIPLOMAT IN TERMS OF INTELLIGENCE, PERSONALITY AND MOTIVATION. INITIALLY HE VIEWS

HIS JOB PRIORITIES IN WASH AS GETTING POST ESTABLISHED, AND FORGING BROAD RANGE OF CONTACTS IN DEPT, IN OTHER EXEC DEPTS, AND IN CONGRESS. HE ALSO SEEMS DEDICATED TO PROMOTING FULL RANGE OF CONTACTS BETWEEN US AND UAEG, ESPECIALLY WITH US BUSINESS COMMUNITY. MIDFA' REMARKED THAT EXCEPT IN OIL SECTOR, HE STRUCK ON CURRENT TRIP BY PREDOMINANCE BRITISH AND JAPANESE GOODS IN UAE, AND HE HOPES REVERSE THAT TREND DURING HIS TOUR OF DUTY. FYI: EMB IS PREPARING INITIAL WASH CONTACT LIST FOR MIDFA', WHICH WILL BE MAILED TO HIM.

7. BOTH MIDFA' AND HIS WIFE ARE GRADS OF UNIV OF KUWAIT AND
SPEAK FLUENT ENGLISH. THEY ARE 25 AND 24 RESPECTIVELY.
DURING UN ASSIGNMENT, MRS. MIDFA', WHO IS FROM KUWAIT,
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REPRESENTED UAE OCCASIONALLY AT SESSIONS OF UNESC. SHE ALSO
PURSUED GRADUATE COURSE WORK AT NYU AND SHE HOPES FULFILL MASTER'S
DEGREE REQUIREMENTS IN ENG LIT AT ONE OF DC UNIVERSITIES.
MIDFA'S HAVE ONE CHILD ABOUT ONE AND A HALF YEARS OLD.

8. EMB VERY IMPRESSED WITH MIDFAS AND BELIEVE THEY WILL MAKE
EXCELLENT REPRESENTATIONAL TEAM FOR UAE. THEREFORE, WOULD
APPRECIATE NEA/ARP AND PROTOCOL EXERTING SPECIAL EFFORT TO ASSIST
MIDFA' AS APPROPRIATE IN ESTABLISHMENT OF UAE EMB, IN MAKING
INITIAL DEPARTMENTAL CONTACTS, AND IN GETTING HIS FAMILY SETTLED.
MRS. MIDFA WILL JOIN HER HUSBAND IN SEVERAL WEEKS FOLLOWING FAMILY
VISITATION IN KUWAIT.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CHARGE D AFFAIRES, DIPLOMATIC MISSIONS, BUILDINGS, DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: morefirh
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974ABUDH00366
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740071-0283
From: ABU DHABI
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974031/aaaaadr.tel
Line Count: 246
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 5
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: A. STATE 35871 NOTAL: B. ABU DHABI A, -12 OF MARCH 14 1974
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: morefirh
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 26 APR 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <26 APR 2002 by shawdg>; APPROVED <31 JUL 2002 by morefirh>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OPENING OF UAE EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON
TAGS: PFOR, TC, US, (MADFAH, HAMAD ABDEL-RAHMAN)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005